

35
SEPT/OCT
1987

\$1.50

PHOENIX

THE TORONTO ATARI FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

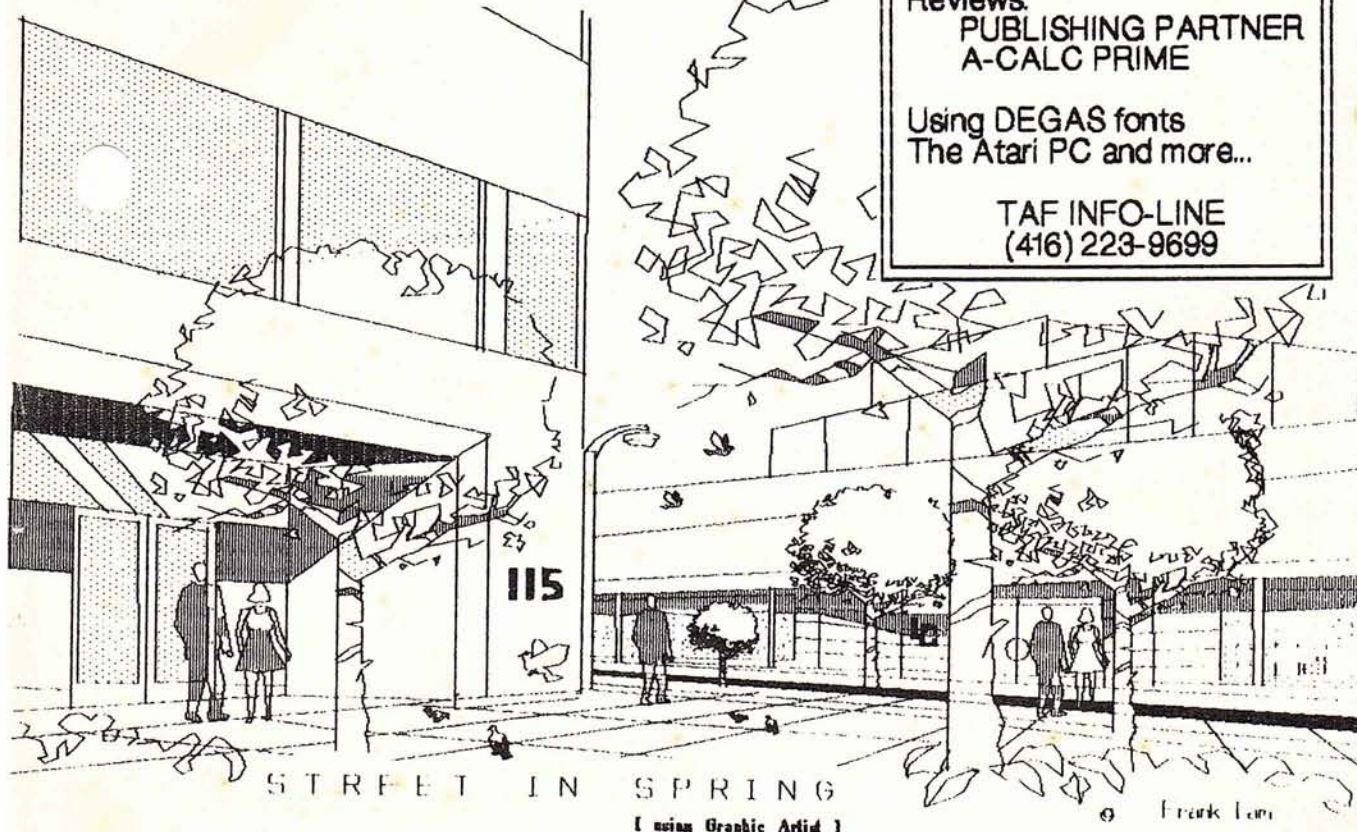
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INSIDE

Reviews:
PUBLISHING PARTNER
A-CALC PRIME

Using DEGAS fonts
The Atari PC and more...

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STREET IN SPRING

[using Graphic Artist]

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EDITORIAL

Well, our summer break in publication is over. Its back to work on PHOENIX. A couple of notable events in the interim.

Atari had an extremely well attended dealer show in August. Software and hardware reps from all over Canada and the U.S. flew in to make an appearance.

Dave Small (Magic Sac) came to demonstrate his invention and present a new piece of equipment, the Translator, which allows you to read MAC disks directly on your Atari drive. ICD had a new Hard disk and promised a dual 30 real soon. In contrast, Supra was flaunting a souped up hard disk in a head to head comparison with their "old" equipment. They were promising a 40 MEG tape backup by Christmas, LAN (4 ST's to 1 hard drive), and a DMA Multiplexer in the near future.

Word Perfect was a hit on the Atari Laser Printer and the joke of the day was that if you bought a copy of this \$500 word processor, they would throw in a 520 ST for free!

Hybrid Arts had their whole MIDI studio there blaring with humongous HD's blasting along. When they set their equipment in motion, I swear, the hotel lights dimmed.

Leisure Suit Larry in the Land of the Lounge Lizards seemed to be a bigger hit with the ladies than the gents. You may never be the same after playing it. Better study your trivia book because you have to pass a test just to play.

The new XE game system was beautifully designed, but BUG

cont'd...

PHOENIX STAFF

EDITOR

Larry Sannuto

Assistant Editors

ST- Brian Gaston
XE/XL - Peter BLAKE

Advertising Manager

Ian Newton (493-3525)

Contributors

Jim Clark, Daniel P. Eagen,
Rick Hudson, Frank Lam, Dave
Lee, Steve Loban, Chris
Payne, David Schreiber, Lou
Shimbart, Harvey Wolfe
and special thanks to Access
Atari, The Port, Starlog and
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(Canada) Corp.
"Bugs" pic by Danny
Printing: The Hyderly 752-9097

ADVERTISING RATES

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|----------------|------|
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Deadline: 15th of the month
ie. Nov.15 for Dec. issue

Submit ads as camera-ready
copy to our Advertising mgr.
or by mail with payment.

HUNT, the new gun game was "missing". Practical Solutions, inventor of Monitor Master promised an RGB to composite converter with RF modulator for the 1040 ST in the near future. A working model was at the show and they were just waiting for the printed circuit boards to be delivered for production to start.

All in all, it was a fascinating show.

Blood, Sweat and Tears

Horatio Alger said, "a ship is as good as the men who sail on her..."

So too, a user group, a computer AND a newsletter. In June, I received a letter from a gentleman who wanted to have his membership refunded because his newsletter was late. I wrote him telling him just how a user group operates.

"...we are all volunteers

here at TAF... we are literally doing what we do for the club out of the goodness of our hearts for fellow Atari users... we are NOT a BUSINESS, nor do we pretend to be... we are not compensated for the expenditure of our time or energies... we may know how to solve a problem but can't because we cannot get someone to take the responsibility for following through on it..."

Further, I explained how I spend well over 100 hours a month on the newsletter, taking on extra work when I know it has to be done to get the newsletter out. I don't chastise the people who *promised* to do something but didn't. I only ask that they do *anything* and sacrifice a little time for us. I asked this man to think about what he could do for TAF and/or the newsletter. An article, maybe?

Well, it turned out that

this man, Mr. Daniel Eagen was the former President of a Bancroft, Ontario computer club that collapsed because TOO FEW people did TOO MUCH. He apologized for jumping the gun and has submitted four articles to us so far in just two months! (see this month's DEGAS fonts piece). Mr Eagen has become a strong supporter of TAF from afar.

Now, I ask all of you who complained about your newsletter being late or about some aspect of the club:

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR US, LATELY?

I can't tell you what crayons to use to color the picture.

Just DO IT.

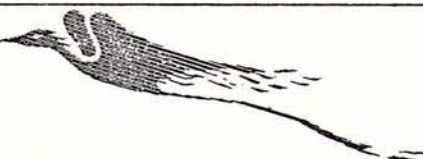
That's not news, that's reality.

Larry

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NEWTON'S

NOTES

SOURCES

Rather than Newton's News this month, I thought that some bits and pieces of information might be of interest.

A couple of places for **8 bitters** to get their **disk drives repaired** are:

The Digital Centre,
35 Balcarres Road,
London, Ontario.
Tel.(519) 439-1365.
Anthony Crecca.

Aardvark Electronic Service,
44 Castle Street,
Geneva, New York,
Tel.(315) 789-5295.

Carl Nobile
(These are in addition to your local computer store who may have an independent service company working with it and/or your Authorized Atari Service Centre).

For **upgrades**, Intellect Electronics is offering a special circuit board which allows both a Happy Chip and Duplicator chip to co-exist in the drive. The board will also take a Cheerup Enhancement and Duplicator. Called the **Emulator 2X**, it sells for \$34.95.

Intellect Electronics Corp.,
Box 6374, Station C,
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5M3.

For **ST owners**, we have a couple of bits of information.

First, an **ST Digitizer** for both video and sound. Available from Navarone Industries Inc., 21109 Longeway Road, Suite C, Sonoma, California, 95370. They also offer other enhancements such as a battery backed clock/calendar, and a package which includes a Laser printer with software.

Disk Publications, 12200 Park Central Drive, Suite 310, Dallas, Texas, 75251, puts out **Alladin**. This journal offers software reviews, demo disks and other information. The publication is on disk and is interactive so you can not only play the games, but also influence the outcome. Sounds different. If anyone has a subscription or has a copy, why not give us a Review for PHOENIX.

Migraph has introduced its revitalized **LabelMaster Elite**. A GEM-based label maker and mailing list manager. You can design your own label graphics for

business mailings, gift tags, etc. I think the club bought LabelMaster for use in the ST Library. Perhaps someone in that committee could give us a Review?

Atari Canada is publishing **EDUCATION NEWS**. Targetted at educators, it offers some good information for anyone, particularly about software. They talk about **WORD WRITER**, an ST word processor. I hope to try this out soon and write a review for PHOENIX. They also mention **WORD PERFECT ST** which should have been released by now. All in all, software for the ST is gathering speed very quickly and with an **IBM EMULATOR** like **PC DITTO**, we are very much into the business environment. I certainly believe that with the ease of use, excellent graphics and now, access to dedicated business programs, Atari is on the way to tremendous growth. As Mr. Sacks from Moss Lawson said at the July 27 ST meeting, Atari is a good buy and

cont'd next page...

NEWTON'S NOTES...

destined to climb.

As a final note, for those of you who are considering trading equipment, there is the publication, **COMPUTER SAVE**. They have listings of used equipment and publish a BBS List. I have not seen it on the newstands lately, but if you want further information their address is...

Suite 278, St. Clair Place
3017 St. Clair Avenue
Burlington, Ontario L7N 3P5

(subscription price was \$12/12 issues).

Until the next meeting,
happy computing.

I.S. Newton,
Executive Vice President.

DEADLINES!

Columnists: Your material is due on the **21st** of this month for the next issue. Ah, you don't have much time, eh? Then, make some, because the **DEADLINE** for December is the **15th** of November.

It will be downloaded from you in the week following if you haven't got your disk ready.

Advertisers: The above schedule applies equally to you. **But**, your copy must be camera-ready art.

PHOENIX

CLARK'S COMMENTS

I would like to welcome everyone back to the club after the summer break. I hope you had a great summer. Here's a few little tidbits of information for all the members on what the Club Executive have been doing lately on your behalf. In June of this year the Executive held a meeting at a Mother's restaurant and invited all members that participate in the running of the Club re: membership committee, writers, library people, publicity people, people on the door, set-up crew, P.A. people, etc. In all thirty-four members were invited and I believe twenty-six were able to attend. This was the first meeting of its kind and was the Club's way of thanking all those who make the Club work.

Pizza, soft drinks and coffee were provided and I think I can say on behalf of everyone there that it was a big success. The meeting provided the opportunity for everyone to get to know their co-workers a bit better and this can only help in the long term. Don't think that all we did was eat and drink - on the contrary, we

discussed over thirty-four topics which amazed me as we normally can't get through that many at our regular Executive meetings. You will all see some of the changes in the future and we can only hope you will be pleased with them.

To get serious for a moment, the Executive would like to announce the creation of a club award system whereby a "**Certificate of Excellence**" is presented to members who show a tireless devotion above and beyond the call of duty over a long period of time.

Also, a "**Certificate of Merit**" has been introduced for people who participate to the best of their ability on behalf of the Club with regard to an individual or group endeavour.

The Executive are proud to announce that the first Certificate of Excellence was presented to Mr. **Lou Shimbart** our former Vice President and previous editor-in long-standing of our newsletter **Phoenix**

cont'd ...

Sept/Oct.1987

Clark's Comments

for all the work and tireless effort he put in in the past. On behalf of all of us, thank-you Lou. This award was presented at our dinner meeting at Mother's and when Lou received it, I think it was the only time I have seen him speechless!!

More information on how members can achieve these awards will be described at meetings and in later editions of our newsletter. All I can say now is that if a person contributes to the benefit of the club it will not go unnoticed. Anyone wishing to nominate a member, should contact one of the Executive directly.

Another bit of info: as of the September meetings Club shirts will be available. Golf shirts, powder blue, with Toronto Atari Federation over the left breast for a price of \$15.00 each including tax. These shirts are 50% cotton, 50% polyester and are good quality, so we urge you to get involved and buy a shirt. The sizes available are XL, L, M. At present only fifty shirts were ordered as this was roughly the number of people who indicated they wanted them. Let's show how much we support Atari and

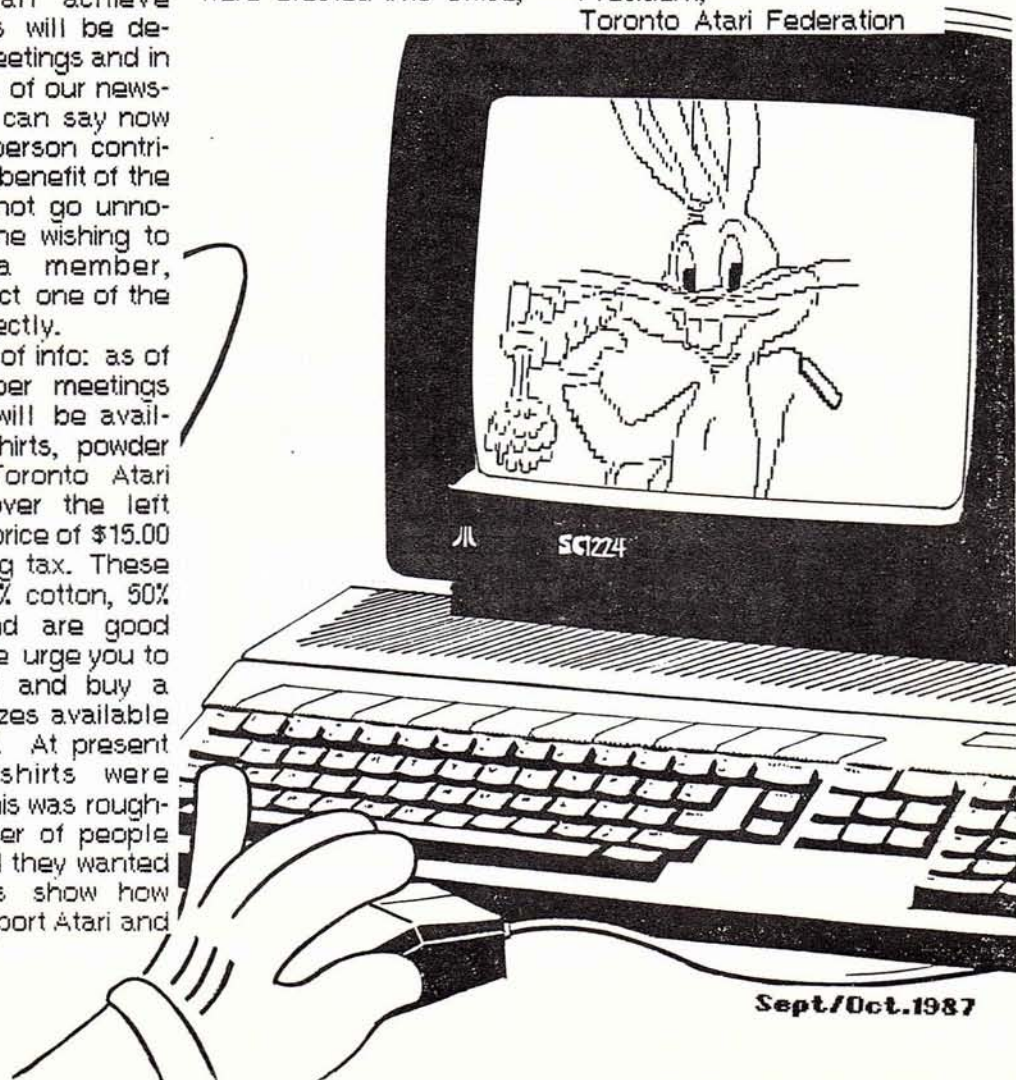
our Club and try and get as many people as possible to buy one. No doubt more shirts will be required and delivery is only a couple of weeks, so no one has to do without. Come on, show the other members you are proud of your club.

One little perk for the Executive members who were elected into office,

the Club supplies you with a shirt. We hope this might invite more people to run for office at the next election. If any members feel the Executive should not be provided with shirts, please see me at one of our meetings. See you all soon,

Jim Clark

President,
Toronto Atari Federation



PUBLISHING PARTNER

In Depth
Report

by Rick Hudson

The Good News

NOTICE! SoftLogik will not be held liable for your typesetter's lack of business!

This is the bold statement made in the fairly well-written manual of Publishing Partner. Does the program live up to that implication? Well, yes and no.

Publishing Partner runs on a 520ST or 1040ST, with TOS in ROM and at least one disk drive. It is not copy protected. There are separate programs for use with colour and monochrome monitors (you get both programs when you buy it). A monochrome monitor is preferred. My experience is with a 1040ST, monochrome monitor, and Versions 1.00 and 1.02 of the software.

It is a powerful program. It is easy to use. With a Postscript equipped laser printer, it produces very high quality documents. It will mix text and graphics easily. With a dot-matrix printer, it prints impressively. It accepts text imported from any ASCII files (using the text importer desk accessory). Type sizes from 2 to 144 points (72 points per inch) can be used.

Pictures can be directly imported in Degas (but not Degas Elite compressed), Neochrome or Tiny (Easy Draw) formats.

Publishing Partner has a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) display. Menus are mouse-driven, and most have keyboard equivalents.

You work with your document in one of four modes: text mode, object editor, scissors or pictures. With the text mode, you can import text created with any word processor that can store ASCII files (with 1st Word, you turn off "WP mode" from the Edit menu before saving the document). Before you can import it, you convert the file to a Publishing Partner text file with the Importer desk accessory. The text then fills up the column(s), whose size you have already selected. Text can automatically be routed to flow from page to page.

Although this whole article is being written with Publishing Partner, a better way to use it is to create your documents first with your word processor. The word processing functions of this are limited, and it is not very quick, since it justifies the



A screen in Text Mode. Picture was captured with a snapshot utility, stored as a Degas picture, then loaded into Publishing Partner.

the 8-bit 1050 drive but will be smaller and can be used on both the PC and the ST.

A green mono monitor will be standard. However, alternate amber and black and white monitors will be offered. The monitor plug is IBM compatible so that any monitor used with the IBM can be used instead of the Atari brand. Personally, I did not like the green monitor, which I understand was a Packard Bell with an Atari label.

The standard keyboard will not have separate cursor keys but here again the standard IBM plug is used allowing any number of alternate keyboards.

There are no expansion slots in the PC but a second version is being planned which will be larger, have all the same features plus slots.

A 20 Meg hard disk drive will be coming shortly which will look like the ST hard disk but at this time is not compatible with it although it is hoped that a future version will be able to be used with both the ST and PC. The standard IBM hard disk will not be plug compatible.

Bundled with the PC are MS-DOS 3.2, GW Basic, GEM Desktop, GEM Paint and GEM Write. The GEM

Desktop is not the one ST owners are familiar with but the new one reached by agreement after Digital Research was sued by Apple. Also included will be a mouse, the same as the ST Mouse.

I have very mixed feelings about the Atari PC. Is it too little too late? Many PC buyers today are looking into the 80386 chip or at least the 80286. I know that having all the graphics modes built-in makes it unique amongst compatibles but people buying compatibles usually don't think of these things. These buyers are looking for something they can use their work programs on at the lowest possible price and usually with an extra drive and/or hard drive. What will be the price of an Atari PC with this type of configuration? Will the price of the new non-conforming 5 1/4 inch drive and the hard disk be comparable with the no-name or brand-name drives available for the other compatibles?

Atari is counting, to a great extent, on the fact that their PC will have a brand name. As Atari owners, we know that there are many people who don't appreciate our

choice. It's up to Atari to make sure that people know about its PC...they are not just going to walk into their local Atari Dealer for a compatible. The three ways to do this are ...advertise, advertise and advertise!

To further complicate matters for us 8-Bit Atari types with the need for IBM compatibility, with the advent of PC Ditto for the ST and the compatible 5 1/4 inch drive would it be better to get the ST, with all its additional advantages, or get the PC compatible?

I would like to see both of these machines in a business situation before I could answer that. Oh, yes, I nearly forgot. Atari Corp is a company that must have the most energetic and devoted employees working for them or else they have slave labour. Obviously none of them are clock watchers. What I'm trying to say is that, with all its built-in extras, like the ST, the Atari PC has no real-time clock! There is at least 1 no-slot clock available for IBM compatibles and it is possible that one can be installed in the Atari PC.

cont'd next page...

WHAT'S NEW WITH LOU?

I suppose that sooner or later it had to happen. My faithful 800, no XL or XE, has a rival. No I have not got an ST or even an IBM compatible, its a combination XL/XE; in other words, an 800XL with a 256K XE compatible upgrade.

At about the same time I obtained an Epson FX80F/T+. "It is not letter quality and it won't accept different fonts.", I was told. A week later I was given a copy of DAISY DOT. My printer could now use different fonts. A little later I upgraded the printer with DOTS PERFECT so it could do letter quality.

I will be reviewing both of these products for a later issue and this leads me nicely into my next item.

WHO DO YOU TRUST?

As my wife will readily attest, I am a hoarder.

I keep all the magazines and books I have aquired and every so often I pull them out and re-read them.

Recently I was reading two books of reviews, "The Book of ATARI SOFTWARE 1984" and "The Addison-Wesley Book of ATARI SOFTWARE 1985". After noticing that the

PHOENIX

ratings were by letter in the '84 book and on a scale of 10 in the '85 and that reviews of some of the software differed widely, I looked at the reviewers names and discovered that not only were the books written by different people but, despite the similarity in names, the books were issued by different companies. I have not noticed any later editions of these books so I don't know if they are still issued.

When anyone writes a review it is necessarily subjective. What has been his or her experience with similar products that she or he is comparing the product with?

Is the reviewer's taste the same as yours?

If you read Consumers Reports you will no doubt have seen a regular article which tallies readers input on film ratings. Well, I tried doing the same thing some time ago, twice as a matter of fact, once with TAPS and once with TAF. The response was underwhelming.

Undaunted, I am about to try it again.

In this issue of PHOENIX is a ratings chart. Please fill it in with your own rating of some of your software and return it to me either by mail or at a club meeting. I will tally the results and print them in a future issue.

Obviously the more replies I

get, the better the overall picture. I would appreciate other newsletters printing the form and sending the replies to me. In return, I will send a copy of the results. □

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

Commerce, Calif., Aug. 26, 1987: Atari Corp. and Federated Group Inc. have signed a definite merger agreement in which Atari will acquire all of Federated's outstanding shares for \$6.25 a share or \$67.3 million. Federated Group is an electronics retailing chain (similar to the Majestic chain in Canada) covering California, Arizona and Texas. The strategy of the deal was to obtain wider distribution of Atari's products. It has been rumored that Atari has plans to extend their name to the consumer products line with items like compact disk players and other entertainment devices. Federated's chairman Wilfred Schwartz (who with his family owns over 55% of its stock) will become a member of the board of directors of Atari on completion of the acquisition.

See Lou's TAF
Software Survey on
the next page...

Sept/Oct. 1987

LOU'S ENDS

by Lou Shimbart

WHAT'S NEW

Atari (Canada) Corp had a 2 day Dealer, Press and Invitee showing of its wares on August 15th and 16th. Some of the leading software companies displayed their latest programs. There were some very impressive items including a super point-and-draw CAD program, a restaurant touch-screen menu program, accounting, word processing, midi and game packages etc. The new Atari machines were on show including the 65XE game machine, Mega 4 ST and Atari PC. Hopefully somebody else will give a more in-depth review of the show as I spent most of my two days at the PC.

WOT! NO CLOCK?

With typical Atari planning, the only Atari PC in Canada arrived the morning of the show, and with typical Atari fortune the person with the know-how and programs for it didn't. Jim Tittler was

caught up in the bad weather at Chicago.

Being an Atari show with the main interest focussed on the ST, there were no 5 1/2 inch disk IBM-type programs to show off the PC with....but wait....I had been very anxious to find out if the Atari PC would run Lotus 1-2-3 properly, after all it is one of the most widely used business programs and one I use almost full time at work. To make sure there was a copy available I had brought one with me and a copy of DOS. Before you know it the machine was up and running.

Susan Wattam, of (Atari) Canada, was familiar with most of the features of the PC so we were able to get through the first day's questioning fairly well with only a few bits of misleading information being given out by us. On Sunday Jim arrived with the programs and a lot more information. Here then is the information on the Atari PC as I know it:

The Atari PC is compatible with the IBM XT with the look of the Mega ST.

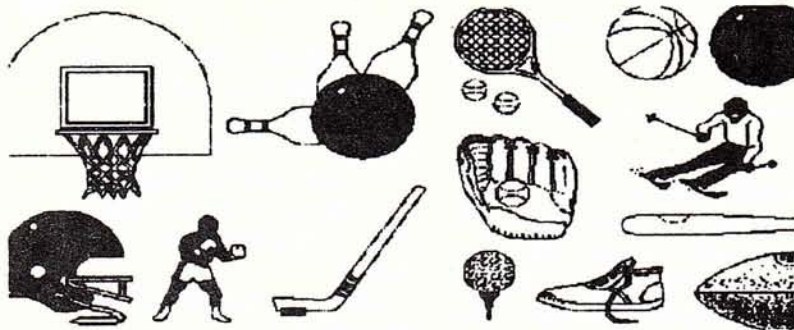
Designed around the Intel 8088 chip with socket for 8087 math co-processor. Clock speeds: 4.77 and 8MHz, keyboard switchable, with an amber LED indicating the higher speed.

512K on board expandable to 640K.

A custom designed graphics chip supports regular 80 X 25 display, Hercules mono graphics, colour graphics and extended colour graphics which are software switchable. CGA has a 2 colour display and EGA 16 colours.

Serial, Parallel, Mouse, External Drive, Monitor and Keyboard ports.

2 external drives can be hooked up to the PC, either 5 1/4 or 3 1/2 drives can be used and can be inter-mixed. The external disk drive port is not the IBM standard but ST. Atari does not plan to provide an adapter to allow standard IBM drives to be used but, as Jim Tittler said, it won't be long before someone puts one on the market. The 3 1/2 inch double sided ST drives can be plugged in and used directly. A new 5 1/4 inch drive is coming from Atari. This drive will be of a similar design to



But...

It takes ten minutes to print a page! (This is with a dot-matrix printer). After you tell it to print, it just sits there for two minutes (it's actually doing a lot of calculations) or more, infuriating you, before it starts to print. There is no print spooler, so your computer is unavailable for a good ten minutes.

whole document as you type. Thunder, the desk accessory will work with it.

Text can be created inside a column, or outside a column. A text column, a line of text outside a column, a picture, line, circle or box are all examples of "objects". You can move these objects around, create and delete them in the object editor mode. You can use up to 512 different objects in each document.

The Scissors mode lets you crop pictures.

The Picture mode lets you import pictures from disk. You then copy the parts of the pictures you want to the buffer, get into the object editor, and put them where you want in your document.

You can resize a picture with a "%age sizing" dialog box. Resized pictures are usually (but not always) free of the annoying lines you get when resizing with some programs.

The "Toolbox" of graphics functions is accessed from any mode by simply placing the mouse pointer over the icon for the desired function and clicking the left mouse button. Graphics functions available are: circles, ellipses, boxes, horizontal & vertical lines, diagonal lines, polygons, and freehand drawing. You can also change fills, line types, and colour (to allow printing with a colour printer, or to allow colour separations).

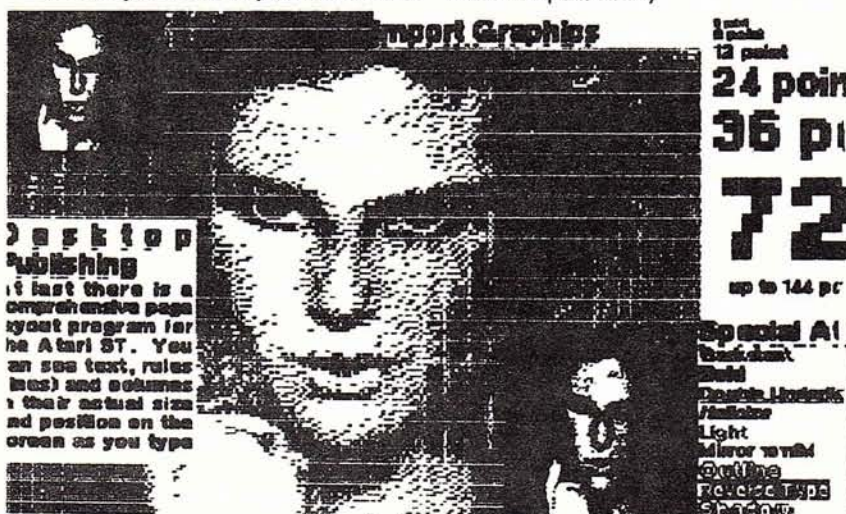
Those who saw Version 1.00 of this program demoed at the March TAF-ST meeting saw a program which had lots of bugs. Most of those have been fixed in Version 1.02 (a free upgrade for owners of earlier versions).

You can only use one font (Helvetica) when printing on a dot-matrix printer. SoftLogik says they will be releasing more printer fonts. A Postscript laser printer allows the use of four fonts.

Publishing Partner will not automatically hyphenate your document. If a sentence ends at the end of a line, and you have left two spaces before your next sentence begins, you will see two spaces at the end of the line. I find this gives a ragged look to the justification. If you really want flush margins, left and right, you have to fix it up manually.

On the whole, *Publishing Partner* is a useful program for anyone who needs to turn out high quality work, and has access to a laser printer. For anyone who mixes text and graphics, and wants a wide selection of type sizes and column layouts, but does not have a laser printer, you may want this program. At about \$160, buying it is a decision you think over carefully, first..

[Editor's note: Unfortunately, Mr. Hudson's original disk was received in a damaged condition and his article had to be totally reconstructed. The graphics, however, could not be, so we took the liberty of substituting some screens to show P/P's ability to scale any pic. The results, do not always come through perfectly.]



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Sept/Oct 1987



DEGAS ELITE AND EXTRA FONTS: an Odyssey

Early this year, I purchased DEGAS ELITE from Batteries Included and was amazed at its power. I had secured some extra fonts for DEGAS when I got my 520ST and wanted to use them. I read the instructions carefully and hacked away at trying to install them. Everything I tried failed, so I wrote to BI and the software house I bought the program from for help. BI of course is gone and the software store was a dead end. Finally, I got so frustrated that I sent letters to both demanding some aid since I had purchased the product in good faith. The store still proved to be no help at all but I finally received a reply from Electronic Arts.

They informed me that **each font must have a separate FACE ID#**. You enter this when using the FONTCONV.PRG by using

the mouse to move the cursor to the appropriate line and changing the number. They suggested to start with **60** and work up.

I tried it and it worked! The new fonts were there. Now to load a picture and experiment. Down came the menu but when I clicked an Option, the menu disappeared. I had lost all control over the drive. As a user and not a programmer, I kept at it.

Remembering that one store salesperson had said that the memory in the 520ST might be too small, my only alternative was to load my amended program on a machine with a larger memory. On my next visit to the city I took the disk along and when I found a store demonstrating a new MEGA ST, attempted to load the program. There were the

new fonts! Now for the real test. I accessed the drive successfully and it worked just as described. An Atari representative was there and agreed with the conclusions that I had come to.

So, it seems, my friends, that an unexpanded Atari 520ST just does not have enough memory in it to support the extra fonts. I plan to solve the problem by adding an extra 520K in mid September. □

[Mr. Eagen is the past president of a local computer group in the Bancroft area and has written a number of interesting articles which will be appearing in future issues of PHOENIX. His experience at solving the DEGAS font loading is simplified here and involved quite a few retailers and a larger number of frustrating hours with them with no result. His refusal to say no ended in the successful odyssey just described.]

TAF ATARI PROGRAM SURVEY

Most of the column headings are self-explanatory. In the X/S column, mark S for ST and X for other. Mark X in the E(xcellent), V(ery good), G(ood), F(air) or P(oor) column to reflect your opinion. Comments could be program type (Utility, Database, Maze game, etc), "Addictive", "Good graphics", "Turkey", "XL/XE only", "Colour monitor required", "Needs 48K", "Needs 1 Meg", etc.

Please return your form to: LOU SHIMBART, 258 Senlac Rd., Willowdale, Ont. M2R 1P8.

| X/S | PROGRAM | COMPANY | E | V | G | F | P | COMMENTS |
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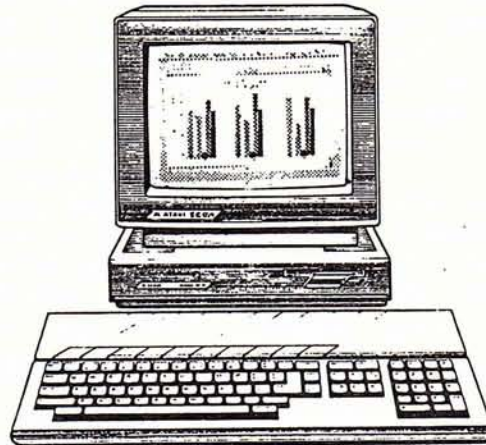
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SNIPPETS

by Larry Sannuto

MICHTRON LAYS DOWN THE LAW!

The opening line of the piece was- Special offer, Turn in three boards and I will give you a Hard Drive. So said Gordon Monnier, president of Michtron in his new war against pirate BBS's. A new tactic in the fight against pirates was up the ante paid to those who finked on them. The response on GENIE's Roundtable came fast and furious. The president of the Brooklyn Atari Society said that pirate boards were the bane of his existence and commended not calling them. Another commented that it was too easy, why, he had just that day downloaded Goldrunner... Comments from Mr. Monnier on this? Quote: "...we are turning all the information over to our lawyer and he is going to get a search and seizure order...seize the computer...and then sue him for copyright and trademark violations." Will bribery stop piracy? I doubt it. Why just the other day I saw a device that is a pocket photocopier. You can scan every page of your favourite magazine (Phoenix?) while you're still in the store... but I don't

think it will hurt newstand sales. We're watching to see if other software publishers jump on the Michtron Bandwagon. ref. Pokey Press, Aug 87

LOTUS CLONE, VP PLANNER TO BE

PORTED: Don Wilhelm wrote to Adam Osborne of Paperback Software about bringing out his superior data base program for the ST. Mr. Osborne replied that VPP WILL BE converted to the ST. The earliest date he would give for release was Sept. 87. VPP is said to be much better than Lotus 123 for a dramatically lower price (\$99). ref. BAUG Newsletter, Jan/Feb 87

STAR TREK: The whole crew talks in this one not yet released by Simon and Shuster. The game plays a lot like SUNDOG and STAR RAIDERS rolled into one says RIACE's Steve Dunphy. Real digitized voices, sound tracks and transporter beam. Yes, the "beta" copy has materialized unofficially and is floating around in the Twilight Zone. Because of this, the rumour is that the company has cancelled its release. I hope not. ref. RI Reporter, 19 May 87

ATARI COMPANY

NEWS: 1. New VP and GM hired- he's former TI/IBM exec Jerry Brown. 2. Commodore suit settled- Atari wins! This was over the Amiga Inc. (company) support and graphics chips put into AMIGA computer when Atari financed them and couldn't get them for their use in the fledgling ST. Breach of contract was the issue. 3. Atari buys Federated, a consumer electronics chain for \$67.3 million to boost its retail coverage. Good deal says Wall Street.

CARDIAC ARREST!: A medical simulation program (game?), the first of its kind developed by Dr. Bruce Argyle for MAD SCIENTIST(?) SOFTWARE. Target market is health professionals as a training ground for real life situations. Said by reviewer Vic Albino (BRACE) to be a "quantum leap" in interactive medical education.

8-BIT SOFTWARE RELEASES: Infocom has HOLLYWOOD HI-JINX, Mindscape, TRAILBLAZER, said to possess elements of Rainbow Walker and a high speed bouncing ball. Their INFILTRATOR, a helicopter simulation will be out pronto. This is in competition to the

cont'd...

SNIPPETS, cont'd...

new TOMAHAWK of the same ilk. Electronic Arts released OGRE and AUTO-DUEL recently too.

ref. GRASP Gazette, June 87
and PACE World, May 87

ACE N/L IN FINANCIAL TROUBLE: Cutting back on trades with N/L's who just reprint and publish a lot of local "club news". Also, fewer pages and an appeal to buy their disks is accompanied by a drop in price to \$5/ea. Keep on writing for PHOENIX, contributors.

ref. ACE, June 87

ALL IN A MAGIC SAC DAY: Dave Small described his day answering dumb questions at DATA PACIFIC from owners who never read manuals. (or READ-ME files) Depressing.

TAF and many in the computer world can support Dave's cries of woe. Many people just never use their heads before that dialing finger. STOP. LOOK AROUND. READ. Before you call anybody with a question. And if you find yourself making a lot of calls, perhaps you should ask yourself the question... Why did I buy a computer in the first place?

ref. Current Notes, June 87

INSTANT BBS WITH YOUR EXPRESS!

Automatically save incoming text or data with your modem using a little known feature of the EXPRESS! program. From the main menu, hit ESCape (forces program to think you're online) then, press OPTION (which saves anything that comes in to a buffer. When you get a call, the modem will auto-answer and save to the buffer, any incoming text. Bob Fasoldt said this works with the 850 version on Avatex, Supra and most Hayes compatible modems. To autosave to disk, you have to push down your modem's #7 dip switch (forced carrier detect). You MUST turn this OFF before a second call comes in. You don't have to use the "switch ON" otherwise. Other conditions necessary: half duplex and ASCII (or ATASCII) file transfer only, NOT X-MODEM. It doesn't work with an MPP or 1030 modem because of a lack of a ring detector. However, it might work with the XM301 which does. Test it and let PHOENIX know about it.

ref. ACORN Kernel, Aug 87

NAME A PROGRAM IT CAN'T RUN:

Was the claim for the now infamous, PC DITTO, IBM EMULATOR on disk. Well, it was the headline for a review by Donna Westolowski. What

you get with it is a humongous list of what does work. It is the buyer's responsibility to buy DOS (3.2 at least). And remember, this was designed for the professional user, so some games won't run (many will).

Speed of operation is not appreciably different and intensive graphics are slower, but not enough to make a big difference. The upgrade after the version shown at the TAF July meeting will support the monochrome monitor, they claim.

CHEAP IMAGE

SCANNER: IMG has produced an optical scanner that fits on the top of your printer head. Any document fed through your machine is scanned and an ST graf file is created. You can transfer these to your desktop publishing documents with ease or store print material electronically, instead of retyping it for your files. The limitations? Speed of your printer and its resolution. The device's software adjusts the image to your printer's abilities. This ST Cartridge and cable sensor goes for US\$99. Less, in quantity bought through a user group. TAF is looking into a bulk purchase. Let the executive know if you want one.

ref. ST Informer, Aug 87

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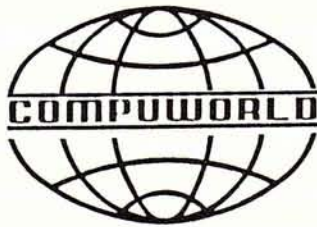
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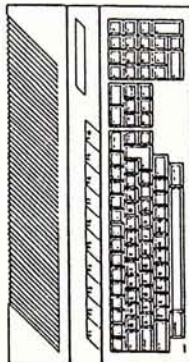
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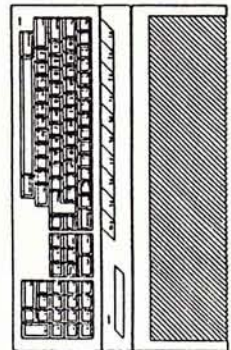


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MAGIC SAC 4.5 & TRANSLATOR BOX



on the boards

by Harvey Wolfe

Well, we're back with a lot of interesting stuff from the local bulletin boards in our files. This month we'll look at material from:

Access Atari (479-2169),
The Port (588-0877),
Starbase II (923-4947), and
Starlog (926-8874).

continuing from Starlog, last issue,

Message : 6250 [Open]
05/06/87 02:14
From : Harvey A. Wolfe
To : Rick Smereka (x)
Subject : BENCHMARKS

When you ran your comparison of Fast Basic and Gfa Basic, you didn't mention one point about the Fast Basic execution times. Were they achieved with the cartridge installed or with the run time package or would the execution times have been the same either way? If Fast Basic is much slower than Gfa Basic when the cartridge is not installed, then this would be a major drawback. Thanks for any information in advance.

Message : 6280 [Open]
05/07/87 00:39
From : Rick Smereka
To : Harvey A. Wolfe (x)
Subject : #6250

PHOENIX

When I conducted the benchmarks, I did not have ready access to 'Tagger,' so Fast BASIC execution times are based on the cartridge only. I am not sure if the execution times of the run time package are any faster than standard interpretation. It should be, but you never know.

*** Rick ***

Message : 6384 [Open]
05/10/87 16:27
From : Carl Nowak
To : Leonard Harris (x)
Subject : 4 Meg Board

In what increments can you add memory to your new 4 meg memory expansion board on a 1040ST? For example: 1 meg expansion memory plus 1 meg original 1040 memory = a 2 meg machine; or 3 meg expansion memory + 1 meg 1040ST original memory = 4 meg machine? Thanks.

Message : 6385 [Open]
05/10/87 19:02
From : Leonard Harris
To : Carl Nowak
Subject : #6384 4 Meg Board

Hi. The memory board will take either 2 or 4 megs. On a 1040 this will give you a total of either 2.5 or 4 megs. The way the MMU was designed allows for only one

bank of internal memory to be used up to a max of 4 megs - so you have to waste 1/2 a meg of memory.

.leonard

from Access Atari,

Message : 655 [Open]
04/07/87 01:48
From : Harvey Wolfe
To : Sysop (x)
Subject : WRITE VERIFY

In the latest issue of START, they had an article by Dave Small in which he mentioned that verifying when writing to a disk is a complete waste of time and he recommended that it be turned off. On the other hand, I assume that Atari included it because they thought it was necessary. Is it really protecting against something that can't happen or does Atari still feel that it is necessary.

Message : 663 [Open]
04/07/87 09:24
From : Sysop
To : Harvey Wolfe (x)
Subject : #655 WRITE VERIFY

With read verify turned off after a write, you can get yourself into lots of problems with cheap disks. If

cont'd, next page...

Sept/Oct. 1987



' ATARI ' SALES

NEW RELEASES:

PC-DITTO,,, MS-DOS EMULATOR
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PHASAR ACCOUNTING,,, by ANTIC
GUILD OF THIEVES,,, RAINBIRDS NEWEST
K-SWITCH,,, 2 PROGRAMS IN MEMORY
BARBARIAN,,, ADVENTURE IN STONEAGE
GRIDIRON,,, THE FOOTBALL SIMULATOR
FLEET STREET PUBLISHER,,,
FLIGHT-SIM II,,, COLOUR AND MONO

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the boards...

you use quality disks, no problems. The read verify just makes sure that the data was written properly with no errors. Maybe Dave can afford to lose a file or two off of his floppies. Some, especially business folks, can't.

Message : 803 [Open]
04/14/87 11:25
From : Harvey Wolfe
To : Sysop (x)
Subject : Q-FORMAT

About a week ago, you mentioned that Q-FORMAT did everything that FORMAT+ did without requiring the loading of TOS on ROM or BASIC. I downloaded it and it looks very impressive. However, we got a couple of questions about it because I've never had any problems with FORMAT+. First, in their article on TWISTER, Dave Small stated that some of the accelerator programs have serious problems with reading or writing to the disk before the head has settled.

Have you personally tried it and have you had any problems with it? Secondly, is there any way that this program could harm either my disk drive or effect its alignment?

Thanks again for all the assistance.

Message : 805 [Open]
04/14/87 15:40
From : Sysop
To : Harvey Wolfe (x)
Subject : #803 Q-FORMAT

QFORMAT appears to follow all the rules of safety - ie. it should cause no problems during use of QFORMAT'ed disks.

from The Port BBS,

Msg# : 84
Sent : May 16, 1987 4:58 PM
To : ALL
From : LEONARD HARRIS
Subj : bad disks

Hi. I just tried to read some disks that I haven't looked at for a while. They were stored exactly as my other disks, but they were no-name cheapies. I had no problems with them originally, no errors, nothing - only now I can't read anything off them. I guess their coercivity (sp?) is so low they don't retain what is written to them. So What?? Well many people say to use the cheapies for backups in case they lose data using them regularly. I recommend not doing this as being able to write with no problem doesn't mean your data will be stored indefinitely on the disk.

.leonard

from STARBASE II,

Message : 2590 [Open]
05/08/87 07:27
From : Tom Harlund
To : Sysop (x)
Subject : DBMAN

I finally got the new version of DBMAN. The pull down menus and the mouse menu work very well. It's very easy to construct pull down menus, along the same line as making a horizontal or vertical menu, i.e. ASSIGN VMENU() or HMENU(). If anybody wants to study the programming, the ASSIST DO file is excellent, it's also a procedure file, 37000 bytes long, but covers a lot of the dBASE programming language.

I have one problem though; I cannot use the new version with a RAM disk. When one tries to execute DBMAN.PRG from the RAM Disk, drive A starts spinning and execution aborts. Has anybody got a solution?

The new DBMAN also includes an editor, but it's the pits! Similar to the dBASE III editor, almost useless.

Tom Harlund

Next Month, more on DBMAN, printer ribbon stretching, desktop publishing and further explorations of Toronto's finest Boards.

A-CALC PRIME

A SPREADSHEET FOR THE ST

REVIEW

by David Schreiber

You've probably heard negative things about A-Calc, the spreadsheet for the ST by Kuma. Forget it all. Wipe the slate clean, because A-Calc Prime, the successor, is out now and it's a vast improvement.

From a Toyota, Kuma has re-made a Mercedes. All the good features of the original have been retained (most of them improved), the weaknesses have been eliminated, and an array of new features has been added. Whereas A-Calc was crippled by a few key drawbacks that stopped it from being a truly serious contender, A-Calc Prime now must rank very near the top of the list of spreadsheets for the ST, if not at the very top. Although it doesn't manage absolute perfection (Who does?), it is of first-rate quality, solidly designed, impressive in its details, big, fast, easy to use, quite easy to learn, and well worth the price.

You get some idea of how much work has gone into the upgrading process by just looking at the size of the programme itself--increased from 85K to 147K.

That's well over a 70% increase. People at Kuma have obviously been working hard. And, at least as important, they have been doing some listening. When I began to use Prime, after many months of being annoyed with A-Calc, it gave me an odd sensation. I felt as if a Kuma customer service rep had been at my elbow, invisible, all through my time of trial, overhearing my complaints and taking notes. Absolutely everything I wanted done was done with Prime. And many pleasant surprises were built in, too.

Space was never a concern with A-Calc and it still isn't with Prime. With a maximum of 256 columns by 8192 rows, in theory it is equal in size to Lotus 1-2-3, and V.I.P. (Bear in mind that other ST spreadsheets, such as Swiftcalc by Timeworks, are also this big.) In fact, your usable space will be limited by the amount of memory in your machine. A handy little rule of thumb provided in the manual allows you to estimate a little more precisely how much you can expect from your machine--but even with a 520ST it is plenty. Thankfully, speed

is no longer a drawback, as the programme now enters data just about as quickly as fingers can punch keys. And the screen updating is quite smooth, free of that old annoying process that looked like it was wiping out the screen and then re-drawing it from scratch every time you entered a piece of data. Although Prime is, as it should be, GEM-based, most commands can now be entered from the keyboard as well as the mouse, thus increasing the usable speed significantly. This may have been just a minor addition to the programme, but to the user feels like switching from push lawn mower to one with an engine.

The list of math, trig and miscellaneous functions has been expanded, and a number of logical operators has been added. It looks like a very wide selection. (I noticed one minor omission, though. It doesn't have that handy function known in some programmes as "Count", for tallying up how many cells in a certain range are occupied. Lotus and V.I.P. have it.) Prime includes a feature called

cont'd next page...

A-Calc Prime...

"macros," which are special, user-defined formulas.

Apparently they can be very useful in some circumstances, I think when you want to be prompted to input a value for a formula. I must say that the manual did not do a good job of describing what they are and what they are for, but to me they seem to be quite different from macros as they are known in Lotus and V.I.P. Prime now includes a Sort function, for arranging and re-arranging data alphabetically or numerically--an essential. And, thank goodness, you can freeze columns and rows in order to hold titles in place while scrolling around the sheet--another essential.

There are lots of other features, of course, too many to describe here. What I can say is that everything I've used seems well thought out and very useful.

I enjoyed a number of the 'extras' very much. For example, there is a clipboard (that is, an icon for temporarily storing data for later manipulation) which stores not just one set of data, as with A-Calc, but ten at once. There is also the option of red-flagging a cell or range of cells so that, after a recalculation, you get a

warning if the cell has become negative or zero or positive or just changed in value. To my mind, that is getting very elegant--and very useful, too, of course. You can even print your sheet sideways, which is a wonderfully useful option.

Unfortunately, it does not work for my Roland PR1011 printer (also known as the Panasonic KX-P1091). As the manual explains, "Because the sideways option depends upon a redefinition of the dot-matrix pattern of the printer, it will only work with a 100 per cent Epson FX80-compatible printer." Maybe a programmer will come up with something to help the rest of us out here with different printers. Finally, I think it's fair to point out that many of the features A-Calc Prime has are not even on the big-name spreadsheet programmes which cost 3-4 times as much. (Yes, of course, to be fair, they have their special attractions, too.)

The manual, which consists of 50 (up from 15) pages of text, might be acceptable, but it is not impressive. Everything necessary seems to be there. Besides all the obvious explanations, it has a tutorial section, and lists of error messages, which are quite helpful. But, strange to say, there is no index.

Even a small manual such as this one, I believe, needs an index. A couple of times I noticed key pieces of information in what seemed rather obscure corners of the manual.

The packaging of Kuma is very short on information, not to mention imagination. You won't learn much about A-Calc Prime by taking it off the shelf in the store and inspecting the package, and there is nothing there to seduce you into an impulse purchase. But I'm not sure how loudly we ought to complain about the skimping on manuals and packaging, because it could very well be that it is the cost-cutting in these areas that allows Kuma to sell Prime at such a reasonable price. We really do get a lot for our money.

Despite the generic packaging and the stapled-together manual, Prime is a very high-quality programme, and that is really what counts in the long run.

In fact, to me, Prime seems good enough to become the standard against which we start measuring all future ST spreadsheets. I don't think it will be easy for the competition to match it. □

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It's the Summer of 1987 and the TORONTO ATARI FEDERATION is doing very well thank you. The 16-Bit Group for the ST computers is growing larger and the 8-Bit Group is holding it's own and adding new members at every meeting.

christopher C. carveth, our esteemed Librarian for these many past years has taken on the position of Vice-President of the 8-Bit Group and, as time is a precious commodity, has passed the torch on to me to find those great public domain programs for your enjoyment and edification. I only hope that I can try to keep up the high standards that Chris has established. It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it! I wish to take this opportunity to thank Chris for his help and guidance in establishing the 8-Bit Library. There is a wealth of programs in this Library thanks to Chris' hard work.

"Who Loves Ya Babe?"

And speaking of the continuing progression of Atari Computers and the Toronto Atari Federation 8-Bit Library. You are no doubt aware of how the 8-Bit line has progressed from the 600/800 through to the XL/XE line. And as you will have no doubt have noticed by now, DOS 2.05 has been super-

XE/XL LIBRARY

ceeded by DOS 2.5., with V:2.5 offering the 1050 Drive owners the extra capacity of Enhanced Density storage of 1010 free sectors. An increase on the 707 free sectors available in the Single Density mode. TAF DOS 2.6f, (otherwise known as "BlackDos") which is a modified 2.05 Single Density DOS with added features such as a Sector Copier and Drive Speed Checker was used by the club on quite a number of disk releases.

DOS 3 never was a popular system because files formatted with it were not compatible with the 2 or 2.5 series. If you do have a copy of Atari DOS 3, I suggest you use the disk for a Frizbie or Coffee Coaster. But if you do have files in DOS 3, use the **DOSSTO2.BIN (TAF-001)** program to convert those files to the DOS 2/2.5 format. Which brings us to the subject of how we are making the Library Disks now. As of April 1987, I established a format using a slightly modified 2.5 series DOS which would allow the users of 1050 Drives the choice of formatting in Enhanced Density if they wished, but would still be

compatible with the Single Density 810 Drives that are still in use. ALL club Library Disks are SINGLE DENSITY DOS 2.05 compatible and will remain so for the foreseeable future. In fact most (if not all) commercially released software is in Single Density for the above reasons.

Disks from **071 on**, contain the following (except for special purpose disks which don't require this format).

DOS.SYS
DUP.SYS
RAMDISK.COM
AUTORUN.SYS
MENU.TAF

The foregoing files allow you to put the Disk in the Drive and **just BOOT THE DISK with BASIC IN.** These files take up 132 Single Density Sectors and will set up the 130XE Ramdisk if you have a 130XE, (it hasn't any effect on a 800, XL or 65XE machines.) It runs the TAF Menu program which then allows you to choose the program on the disk which you wish to use. This format is more flexible than using the "BLACKDOS" and

cont'd next page...

still leaves 575 Single Density Sectors for programs.

It should be noted that not all programs in the Library will work with all Atari 8-Bit computers! TURBO (TAF-072) is an example. This disk will only work on the XL/XE machines. And of course some of the earlier 400/800 programs may not run on the XL/XE without the **Translator Disk(s)** (TAF-012 or TAF-013).

I hope the forgoing helps explain the **Disk Operating System** used on the TAF 8-Bit Software Library Diskettes. Remember, most Library Disks still cost just **\$3.00 to members, or \$5.00 if you're not a member of the Toronto Atari Federation.** Where else can you get such deal?

Until next month:
"Keep on Computing!"

Dave Lee
TAF 8-Bit Librarian

ATTENTION 8-BIT WRITERS!!!
PHOENIX needs your input in the form of News, Reviews and interesting tidbits of info. Submit your material to your 8-bit Editor, **Peter BLAKE, NOW!!!**

PHOENIX

SUMMER 8-BIT RAMBLINGS

By Peter BLAKE

Some of you may have noticed that your assistant XE/XL editor was not at the June 8-bit meeting. I was in fact enjoying the rain in Europe. Northern Europe is having the worst summer that they have had in 30 years, and this following on the heels of the worst winter they had in even longer, so I will not bore you with a travelogue.

In my last column I mentioned that I might be talking about word processors, and I shall, but not this month. Instead, I should like to write a little about Atari in Europe.

The first thing that you notice in Europe, is that the home computer market seems to be less PC and PC-Clone oriented. That is one of the reasons that the Atari ST managed to get such a toe hold in the market. This despite the fact that Europeans seem to be paying more than North Americans do for their computers. A 1040ST with monochrome monitor is going for up to 1998 DM or \$CDN 1500. It seems to me the price in Canada is considerably less. There are a

lot of third-party vendors selling disk drives for the ST's. I have not seen too much of that recently.

As for the 8-bits, the chief complaint seems to be that there is just not enough software for them. In June, just as I was there, Antic Software got a European distributor. That news was big enough to warrant a 3-page spread in one of the Atari magazines.

What may surprise many North Americans is that the most famous German Atari magazine "Happy Computer" (famous because they placed the excellent TurboBASIC into the public domain), is not exclusively devoted to Atari. It deals with Atari (6502-based and ST), Commodore (C64 and Amiga) and something called the Schneider PC which appears to be Z-80 based.

It is important to keep one's eyes on Europe because of the great software which it is producing.

Well, next month I may get around to looking at word processors for the 6502-based Ataris. □

Sept/Oct.1987

Well, school is back in and summer is almost over, I guess everybody is ready to get back to their keyboards. This had to be one of the hottest summers that I could remember and the least exhausting thing I felt like doing was sitting at my computer. No running and sweating for me.

Anyways, for those of you who missed our special summer meeting, there were three new disks presented. One disk was a partial disk "D". This disk contains a demo of Sierra-on-Line's **SPACE QUEST** and **KING'S QUEST III**.

Disk #30 was a **games** disk with three folders. The first folder contained a program called **AWARI.PRG**. The second folder has a game called **DE-VA_GFA.PRG**. Both folders contained other related files. The main program on this disk is **WHEEL-OF-FORTUNE** (sorry guys, Vanna is not included). Other files included allow you to create your own puzzles or run the programs from a shell.

Disk #31 is a **utilities** disk. It contains two main programs. **VC.TPP** is a clone of the **VISICALC** spreadsheet program on



the 8 bit machines. The other major program on this disk is **QUICK_DB.TOS**. This is a **database** program which uses a keyword search and find system. Both folders also contain other related files. The third folder is **DBMAN**. This contains a **review** and some **tutorials** for **DBMAN** plus two sample files.

Okay, that was for last month. This month there are again 3 new disks. Disk #32 is again a **games** disk. On this disk are 5 programs. The first folder is **BARNYARD**. This is a childrens game played liked **Concentration**; match the animal behind the barn doors. The second folder is **POKER**, your basic stud poker game. Next folder is **SPACEWAR**. Use the Enterprise to destroy the Klingon ship. **TORP** is the name of the fourth game and is something like Battleship. The final program is **POOLMONO.PRG** and is a simple **pool** game for monochrome owners. Of course, all folders contain other related files.

Disk #33 is a **utilities** disk and contains 7 programs. The first folder **3DBUILD** contains a program which allows you to make 3D

objects and rotate them.

Next folder is **ARCMENU** which is another shell program to run **ARC.TTP** from. The third folder is **MOVE** which is a multi purpose **printout utility**. If you own **VIP** then the next one is for you. **VIP_CHECK** allows you to keep track of your chequing account. The last folder is **TURTLE**. This is a **back up system for hard disk owners**. **PROTECT.ACC** is a desk accessory which allows you to write protect your drives via software.

Then, comes **SLOW-DOWN.TOS**. What this program does is, it slows down the ST. In other words it makes the ST run slower so that you can see what windows look like as they open up or as a program boots up.

Finally, disk #33 contains a version of the development language **FORTH**. If you're not familiar with **FORTH**, check out some of the old issues of **ANALOG** magazine.

Well that's the news from the library this month. Remember, if you're looking for a particular program, let me know and I'll see what I can do. Thanks for your support.

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So if you didn't know what you were going to be doing this month... just drop on by the JMG Compushoppe and check out the latest developments in the ST community. September is also JMG Compushoppe's 2nd anniversary so there are specials all month long. So... even if you can't get to JMG on the 19th, come any day in September. Everyday will have something exciting going on!

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ST VIEWS

by Stephen Loban

It has been almost six months since my appointment to the position of Vice President - ST computers, so I thought it would be appropriate to reflect on where we've been and where we are going.

But first I must THANK all those who have been very supportive of our user group and who have helped with the many jobs involved in running the meetings. I don't think I have to name names. You know who you are.

Since the Spring we have had a variety of different topics covered at the ST meetings; from seeing the latest software (some not even available at that time) to the ST emulating other computers to the merits of Atari Corporation as an investment. I realize that at

times the meetings don't start on time and might seem a little disorganized.

But this is because a month's worth of telephone conversations have to be pulled together in a matter of just a few minutes to make the program workable.

If you see something you can assist with at the meetings whether it be helping setting up the hardware or putting labels on newsletters please lend a hand.

As to where we are going. There are a number of items I would like to accomplish beginning this Fall as well as a number of improvements to be made:

We did have the beginnings of a programming SIG before the summer. I hope this will continue. There is a desperate need for some more SIG groups. But it takes someone to get the ball rolling. If you want to be in a SIG start one. Become the SIG Leader. I hope we have 5 or 6 SIGs by the Winter. Some of these could be communications, graphics, databases, desktop publishing or games.

One of the off shoots from the SIGs, hopefully, will be the creation of some original software or art which can be added to the TAF ST library. Along these lines I hope we can organize a contest to generate some outside interest in the club.

We will try to improve upon the meeting programs and timeliness. But in order to do this I need your INPUT. Give some suggestions and help implement them!

I also would like to see more tutorial type sessions, perhaps in smaller groups to encourage participation.

This should be an exciting Fall with the new Mega STs and the Laser printer available. And we will do our best to keep you in touch with the latest in the Atari ST world. □

"They Laughed... but that didn't stop me from writing something for PHOENIX." We are always in need of reviews, articles and original graphics. Don't be shy. SUBMIT. And who knows, you might become famous. Even infamous.



PHOENIX

Sept/Oct. 1987

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Colour Monitor for ATARI ST, \$430. Also, VIP Professional- GEM version (unused), \$170; Easy Draw (unused), \$70; 3 Font/Art Packs for Easy Draw (used), \$20 each; Label Master Elite (unused), \$40. Call John Parkyn, 266-0295

FOR SALE: Amdek 220 Green Monitor, 2 Atari 1050 Drives, 130 XE Computer, 2 joysticks, MPP 1150 Interface, Programs- AtariWriter, SYNfile, Visifile, Homepak, The Writer's Tool and others. \$700 or best offer for all. Ted Neilson, 447-3753.

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Brilliant programmers, hardware hackers, retailers and anyone who wants to speak to our group on some area of expertise. We welcome you. Call our Exec.

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SEPT/OCT EVENTS

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Thu | 17 | | | |
| Fri | 18 | | | |
| Sat | 19 | | SHOW-- | COMPUTER FEST |
| Sun | 20 | | SHOW AT | HOBBY BLDG CNE |
| Mon | 21 | 7:30pm | **TAF** | XE MEETING |
| Tue | 22 | | | |
| Wed | 23 | | | |
| Thu | 24 | | | Rosh Hashanah |
| Fri | 25 | | | Rosh Hashanah |
| Sat | 26 | | | |
| Sun | 27 | 7:00pm | TAF | Executive Meeting |
| Mon | 28 | *VIDEO- | SHOW | CANADIAN HIGH |
| Tue | 29 | AUDIO | SHOW | TECH SHOW |
| Wed | 30 | SHOW | SHOW | CNE-COLISEUM |

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

| | | | | |
|-----|----|--------|---------|---------------|
| Thu | 1 | | | |
| Fri | 2 | | | |
| Sat | 3 | | | Yom Kippur |
| Sun | 4 | | | |
| Mon | 5 | 7:00pm | **TAF** | ST MEETING |
| Tue | 6 | | | |
| Wed | 7 | | | |
| Thu | 8 | | | |
| Fri | 9 | | | |
| Sat | 10 | | | |
| Sun | 11 | | | |
| Mon | 12 | | HOLIDAY | THANKSGIVING |
| Tue | 13 | | | |
| Wed | 14 | | | |
| Thu | 15 | | PHOENIX | COPY DEADLINE |
| Fri | 16 | | | |

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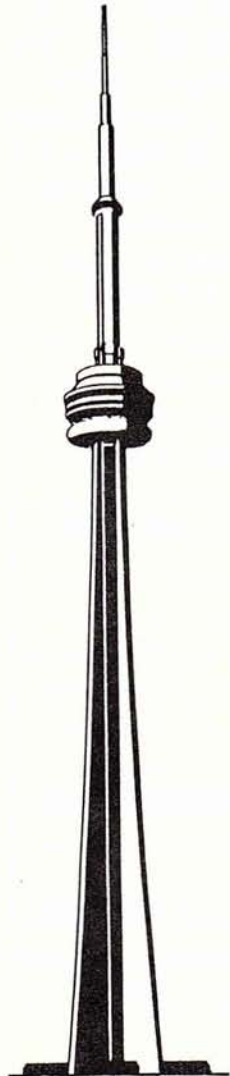
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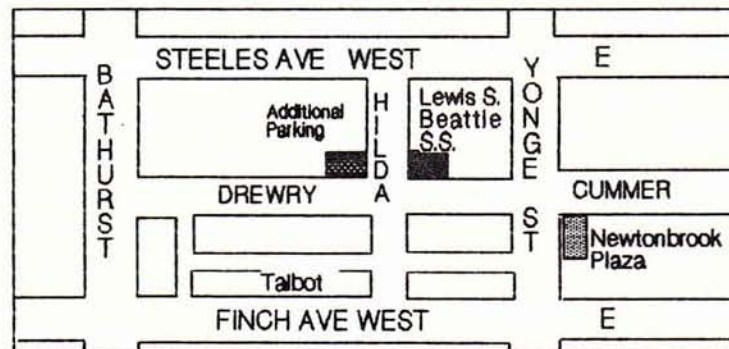
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MEETING DATES

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| SI | <u>XE/XL</u> |
| OCT 5 | OCT 19 |
| NOV 2 | NOV 16 |